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CLAIM LISTING:

1. (Currently amended) An implantable or insertable medical device adapted to provide a controlled change in mechanical properties and biomechanical compatibility after being implanted or inserted into a patient comprising a biodegradable inner core material and a biodegradable covering material ~~at least partially~~ completely covering the inner core material; wherein the biodegradable inner core material is selected from a metallic material and a ceramic material, wherein the covering material substantially controls the rate at which the inner core material becomes flexible upon contact with bodily fluids, wherein after insertion or implantation into a patient, the medical device becomes decreasingly rigid and increasingly biomechanically compatible with body tissue in contact with the device over time, and wherein said biodegradable covering material does not contain therein a therapeutic agent.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the inner core material becomes increasingly flexible upon contact with body fluids.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the covering material is a hydrophobic surface erodable polymer.

6. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the covering material is a polymer.

7. (Original) The medical device of claim 6 wherein the polymer is a shape memory biodegradable polymer.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the inner core material comprises a metallic core.

10. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the inner core material comprises a ceramic core.

11. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the inner core material comprises a monofilament core.

12. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the inner core material comprises a multifilament core.

13. (Original) The medical device of claim 12, wherein the multifilament core comprises woven or braided filaments.

14. (Previously presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the inner core material comprises a tubular structure.

15. (Original) The medical device of claim 14, wherein the tubular structure is micromachined or laser-cut.

16. (Currently amended) The medical device of claim 1, wherein ~~either or both of~~ the inner core material ~~and the covering material~~ contains therein or thereon at least one therapeutic agent.

17. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, further comprising one or more additional coating layers.

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18. (Original) The medical device of claim 17, wherein any of said additional coating layers contains therein or thereon at least one therapeutic agent.

19. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, which is an intraluminal stent.

20. (Original) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the intraluminal stent is selected from the group consisting of coronary, biliary, tracheal, gastrointestinal, urethral, ureteral and esophageal stents.

21. (Original) The medical device of claim 20, wherein the stent is a self-expandable or balloon-expandable coronary stent.

22-45. (Cancelled)

46. (Previously presented) The medial device of claim 1, wherein said medical device is a coronary stent that maintains adequate rigidity to insure lumen patency for a period of from about three to about six months following implantation and that is completely biodegradable within about six months to one year following implantation.

47. (Previously presented) The medial device of claim 1, wherein said medical device is an esophageal stent that maintains adequate rigidity to keep an esophageal stricture open for about one to about three months following implantation and that is completely biodegradable within about three months to six months following implantation.

48. (New) The medial device of claim 5, wherein said surface erodible polymer is selected from a polyamide, a polyorthoester and a polyanhydride.